

NOV 24 1959

**Mr. William F. Hauck
Director, Washington Office
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.**

Dear Bill:

We have received numerous inquiries concerning the letter which Kenneth Hahn is circularizing.

Khrushchev's comments about intelligence activities and the Central Intelligence Agency, in our mind, represent part of a deliberate campaign to discredit U. S. intelligence and thus leave a clearer field for Communist subversion. If there is a thaw in the Cold War, Khrushchev obviously would like to deprive the United States of one of its principal weapons for combating Communism. You have noted, of course, that in all of his talk about desiring peace, Khrushchev has stated that Moscow has not renounced and will not change its objective that all of the nations of the free world should and shall become Communist.

As far as Khrushchev's specific claims are concerned, I would point out first that one of his motives was to draw out any information that any official reply or action might supply. You recognize, of course, that from time to time agents are exposed and apprehended. This often happens to Soviet agents. These agents sometimes carry both money and ciphers known as one-time pads. These pads are useful solely for communications between that agent and his home base, and do not affect any other communication system. We believe that Khrushchev has received little comfort from us in this respect; in fact nothing comparable to what we have gained from Soviet defectors and agents.

As for the general communications systems of the U. S. Government, they are protected between sender and recipient by a variety of means, none of which was made suspect by Khrushchev's remarks. We are constantly calculating the protection given to such communications by the inherent security of the devices used and are constantly alert to interpret and exploit any information which would alter our calculations. Khrushchev's remarks were limited to matters which gave us no new information of this sort.

In general, we would say that for the United States to react to Khrushchev's remarks as certain quarters have suggested would be to play into the hands of the Soviets.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

IG/LBK/drm (23 November 1959)

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